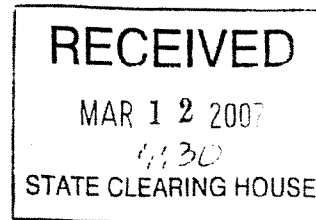


APPENDIX A

LOS ANGELES-TO-PALMDALE SEGMENT OF THE HIGH-SPEED TRAIN NOTICE OF PREPARATION



SCH _____

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

2007031066

FROM: Mehdi Morshed
Executive Director
California High-Speed Rail Authority
925 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, California 95814

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Project Level Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Palmdale to Los Angeles section of the California High-Speed Train System

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority), as the Lead Agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process for a proposed California High-Speed Train (HST) system, is issuing this Notice of Preparation of a Project Level EIR/EIS for the section of the HST system from the City of Palmdale to the City of Los Angeles.

The Authority is issuing this notice to solicit public and agency input into the development of the scope of the EIR and to advise the public that outreach activities will be conducted by the Authority and its representatives in the preparation of the combined EIR/EIS. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), an operating administration within the United States Department of Transportation, will serve as federal lead agency for the federal environmental review process complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FRA has responsibility for oversight of the safety of railroad operations, including the safety of any proposed high-speed train system. The FRA will publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* announcing the agency's intention to initiate the federal environmental review process for this section of the HST project.

The Authority and FRA completed a Program EIR/EIS for the California HST System in 2005 as the first-phase of a tiered environmental review process for the proposed California HST System. The Authority certified the Final Program EIR and issued a decision, and FRA issued a Record of Decision in November 2005 on the Final Program EIS, selecting the HST Alternative for further project level environmental review and selecting corridor alignments and potential station locations, including a corridor between Palmdale and Los Angeles. This project level Palmdale-Los Angeles HST EIR/EIS will be developed as a second-tier environmental document. Studies will include preliminary engineering designs and assessment of environmental effects associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of the HST system, including track, ancillary facilities and stations, along the previously selected Palmdale-Los Angeles corridor.

DATES: Written comments on the scope of the Palmdale-Los Angeles HST EIR/EIS should be provided to the Authority at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. Public scoping meetings are scheduled from April 4-17, 2007 as noted below.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope should be sent to Ms. Carrie Pourvahidi, Deputy Director, ATTN. Palmdale-Los Angeles, California High-Speed Rail Authority, 925 L Street, Suite 1425, Sacramento CA 95814, or via email with subject line "Palmdale-Los Angeles" to: comments@hsr.ca.gov. Comments may also be provided orally or in writing at the scoping meetings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Carrie Pourvahidi at the above noted address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) was established in 1996 and is authorized and directed by statute to undertake the planning for the development of a proposed statewide HST network that is fully coordinated with other public transportation services. The Legislature has granted the Authority the powers necessary to oversee the construction and operation of a statewide HST network once financing is secured. As part of the Authority's efforts to implement a high-speed train system, the Authority adopted a Final Business Plan in June 2000, which reviewed the economic feasibility of a 700-mile-long HST system capable of speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour on a dedicated, fully grade-separated state-of-the-art track.

In 2005, the Authority and FRA completed a Final Program EIR/EIS for the Proposed California High-Speed Train System (statewide program EIR/EIS), as the first-phase of a tiered environmental review process. The Authority certified the Final Program EIR under CEQA and approved the proposed HST System, and FRA issued a Record of Decision under NEPA on the Final Program EIS. This statewide program EIR/EIS established the purpose and need for the HST system, analyzed a HST alternative, and compared it with a No Project/No Action Alternative and a Modal Alternative. In approving the statewide program EIR/EIS, the Authority and the FRA selected the HST Alternative and selected certain corridors/general alignments and general station locations, incorporated mitigation strategies and design practices, and specified further measures to guide the development of the HST system at the site-specific project level of environmental review to avoid and minimize potential adverse environmental impacts.

The Palmdale-Los Angeles HST EIR/EIS will be one of a number of second-tier environmental reviews for sections of the HST system that FRA and the Authority intend to undertake. It will be tiered from and incorporate by reference the certified statewide program EIR/EIS in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR § 1508.28) and State CEQA Guidelines (14 C.C.R. § 15168[b]). Tiering will ensure that the Palmdale-Los Angeles HST EIR/EIS builds upon all previous work prepared for and incorporated in the statewide program EIR/EIS. The EIR/EIS will be carried out in accordance with FRA's Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts (64 Fed. Reg. 28545 [May 26, 1999]) and will address NEPA and CEQA, and will also continue the NEPA/Clean Water Act Section 404 merger process established through the statewide program EIR/EIS process.

This Palmdale-Los Angeles HST EIR/EIS and other project level EIR/EISs will examine a range of project alternatives for portions of the proposed HST system within corridors selected in the statewide program EIR/EIS, as well as a no action alternative. This and other project level EIR/EISs will describe site-specific environmental impacts, will identify specific mitigation measures to address those impacts and will incorporate design practices to avoid and minimize potential adverse environmental impacts. The FRA and the Authority will assess the site characteristics, size, nature, and timing of proposed site-specific projects to determine whether the impacts are potentially significant and whether impacts can be avoided or mitigated. This and other project EIR/EISs will identify and evaluate reasonable and feasible site-specific alignment alternatives, and evaluate the impacts from construction, operation, and maintenance of the HST system. Information and documents regarding this HST environmental review process will be made available through the Authority's Internet site: <http://www.cahighspeedrail.gov/>.

Project Objectives/Purpose and Need: The need for a high-speed train (HST) system is directly related to the expected growth in population and increase in intercity travel demand in California over the next twenty years and beyond. With growth in travel demand, there will be an increase in travel delays arising from the growing congestion on California's highways and at airports. In addition, there will be negative effects on the economy, quality of life, and air quality in and around California's metropolitan areas from a transportation system that will become less reliable as travel demand increases. The intercity highway system, commercial airports, and conventional passenger rail serving the intercity travel market are currently operating at or near capacity, and will require large public investments for maintenance and expansion to meet existing demand and future growth. The purpose of the proposed HST system is to provide a new mode of high-speed intercity travel that would link the major metropolitan areas of the state; interface with international airports, mass transit, and highways; and provide added capacity to meet increases in intercity travel demand in California in a manner sensitive to and protective of California's unique natural resources.

Alternatives: The Palmdale-Los Angeles HST EIR/EIS will consider a No Action or No Project Alternative and HST Alternatives for the Palmdale to Los Angeles corridor.

No Action Alternative: The take no action (No Project or No Build) alternative is defined to serve as the baseline for assessment of the HST Alternative. The No Build Alternative represents the region's transportation system (highway, air, and conventional rail) as it existed in 2006, and as it would exist after completion of programs or projects currently planned for funding and implementation by 2030. The No Build Alternative defines the existing and future intercity transportation system for the Palmdale to Los Angeles corridor based on programmed and funded improvements to the intercity transportation system through 2030, according to the following sources of information: State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) for all modes of travel, airport plans, and intercity passenger rail plans.

HST Alternative: The Authority proposes to construct, operate and maintain an electric-powered steel-wheel-on-steel-rail HST system, over 700-mile long (1,126-kilometer long), capable of speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour (mph) (320 kilometers per hour [km/h]) on dedicated, fully grade-separated tracks, with state-of-the-art safety, signaling, and automated train control systems. The Palmdale to Los Angeles HST corridor that was selected by the Authority and FRA with the statewide program EIR/EIS follows SR-58/Soledad Canyon from the City of Palmdale to Sylmar and then along the Metrolink Railroad line to Los Angeles Union Station. The corridor is relatively wide in the area that includes both SR-14 and Union Pacific Railroad alignments between the Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita. Further engineering studies to be undertaken as a part of this EIR/EIS process will examine and refine alignments in the selected corridor, including sections from the Palmdale to Santa Clarita and from the Burbank Metrolink Station to Los Angeles Union Station. An alignment option that closely follows SR-14 through Soledad Canyon will be considered as well as an alignment option through Soledad Canyon along the Santa Clara River. Alignments along San Fernando Road adjacent to Taylor Yard and along the existing Metrolink right-of-way around the Taylor Yard area will be considered. See Attachments A and B for maps of the HST system and the Palmdale to Los Angeles section of the HST system.

Station location options were selected by the Authority and FRA with the statewide program EIR/EIS considering travel time, train speed, cost, local access times, potential connections with other modes of transportation, ridership potential and the distribution of population and major destinations along the route, and local planning constraints/conditions. Alternative station sites at the selected general station locations will be identified and evaluated in this project level EIR/EIS. Station area development policies to encourage transit-friendly development near and around HST stations that would have the potential to promote higher density, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented development around the stations will be prepared in coordination with local and regional planning agencies. Potential station locations to be evaluated in the Palmdale-Los Angeles HST EIR/EIS include: City of Palmdale, Palmdale Transportation Center; City of Sylmar, Sylmar Metrolink station; and City of Burbank, Burbank Metrolink station. The HST station at Los Angeles Union Station is being evaluated in the project level Los Angeles-Orange HST EIR/EIS and will not be considered in the Palmdale-Los Angeles HST EIR/EIS process. In addition, potential sites for turnback/layover train storage facilities and a main HST repair and heavy maintenance facility will be evaluated in the Palmdale-Los Angeles HST EIR/EIS.

Probable Effects: The purpose of the EIR/EIS process is to explore in a public setting the effects of the proposed project on the physical, human, and natural environment. The FRA and the Authority will continue the tiered evaluation of all significant environmental, social, and economic impacts of the construction and operation of the HST system. Impact areas to be addressed include: transportation impacts; safety and security; land use, and zoning; secondary development; land acquisition, displacements, and relocations; cultural resource impacts, including impacts on historical and archaeological resources and parklands/recreation areas; neighborhood compatibility and environmental justice; natural resource impacts including air quality, wetlands, water resources, noise, vibration, energy, wildlife and ecosystems, including endangered species. Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate all adverse impacts will be identified and evaluated.

Scoping and Comments: The Authority encourages broad participation in the EIR/EIS process during scoping and review of the resulting environmental documents. Comments and suggestions are invited from all interested agencies and the public to insure the full range of issues related to the proposed action and all reasonable alternatives are addressed and all significant issues are identified. In particular, the Authority is interested in determining whether there are areas of environmental concern where there might be a potential for significant

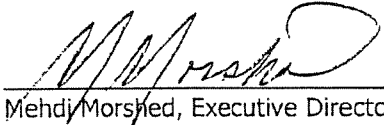
impacts identifiable at a project level. In response to this NOP public agencies with jurisdiction are requested to advise FRA and the Authority of the applicable permit and environmental review requirements of each agency, and the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to the agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Public scoping meetings have been scheduled as an important component of the scoping process for both the State and Federal environmental review. The scoping meetings described in this Notice will be advertised locally and included in additional public notification. Scoping meetings are scheduled for the following cities:

- **Glendale Public Library**, 222 E. Harvard St., Glendale, CA 91205 on April 4, 2007, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM for public agencies and from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM for the general public.
- **Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority Headquarters (Board Room)**, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012 on April 5, 2007, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM for public agencies and from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM for the general public.
- **Sylmar Park Recreation Center**, 13109 Borden Avenue Sylmar, CA 91342 on April 10, 2007, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM for public agencies and from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM for the general public.
- **Palmdale City Hall, Council Chambers**, 38300 North Sierra Highway, Palmdale, CA 93550 on April 12, 2007, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM for public agencies and from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM for the general public.
- **Los Angeles River Center & Gardens (Atrium)**, 570 W. Avenue 26, Los Angeles, CA 90065 on April 17, 2007, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM for public agencies and from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM for the general public.

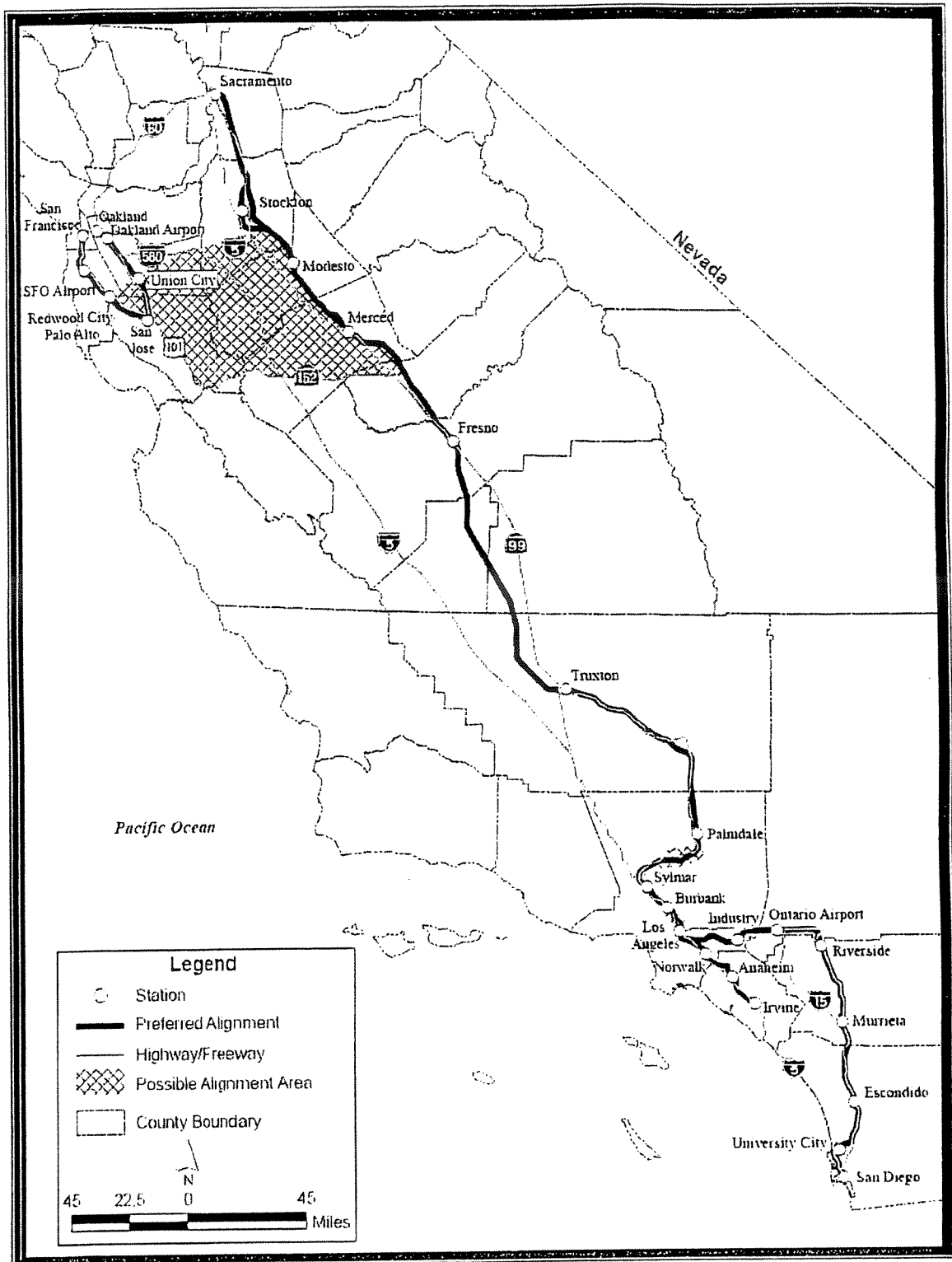
Due to the time limits mandated by State law, public agencies are requested to send their responses to this Notice of Preparation to the Authority at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response and direct any comments or questions regarding this project to Ms. Carrie Pourvahidi, Deputy Director of the California High-Speed Rail Authority at the address shown above.

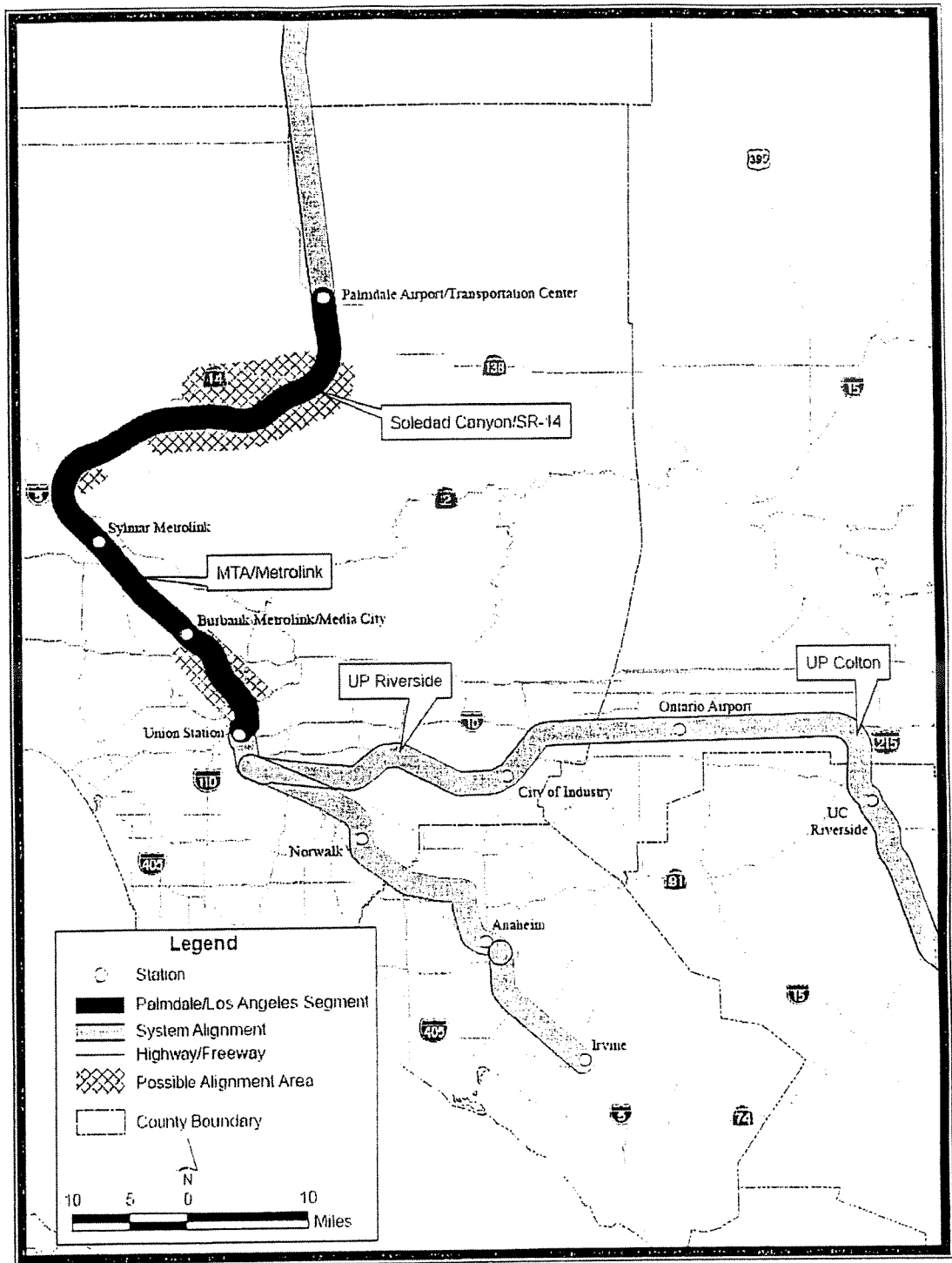
Date: 3/12/07

Signature: 
Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director

Attachment A
State-wide High-speed Train System
Preferred Alignments and Stations Statewide



Attachment B
Palmdale/Los Angeles Segment



HSR NOP FedEx List

Mr. Don Cosby
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Services
12371 Little Tujunga Canyon Rd
Sylmar, CA 91342-6303

Ms. Elaine Wilkerson
Glendale Planning Department
Director
613 E. Broadway
Glendale, CA 91206-4391

Burbank Redevelopment Agency
275 E. Olive Avenue
Burbank, CA 91510
(818) 238-5180

Dr. Elaine Chang
South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD)
Advisory Group Contact
21865 Copley Dr
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
(909) 396-3186

Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
1955 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, CA 90601
(562) 699-7411

Mr. Detrich Brown Allen
City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department
General Manager
200 N Spring Street, Suite 2005 (mail stop 177)
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 978-0888

Mr. George Gonzalez
Bureau of Street Services - Urban Forestry Division
Chief Forester
600 S. Spring St., 10th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90014
(213) 485-5475

California State Parks - Angeles District
1925 Las Virgenes Rd
Calabasas, CA 91302
(818) 880-0350

California Air Resources Board
9480 Telstar Ave, Suite 4
El Monte, CA 91731
(626) 575-6800

Mr. Sean Walsh
Governor's Office of Planning & Research
Director
1400 Tenth St, Room 100
Sacramento, CA 95812
(916) 322-2318 15 copies

Mr. Jonathan Bishop
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 4)
Executive Officer
320 W 4th St Ste 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013-2343
(213) 576-6605

Mr. Ronald Kosinski
Caltrans District 7
120 S Spring St
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3602

Mr. Stephen Buswell
Department of Transportation IGR/CEQA Branch
District 7 Regional Planning
120 S Spring St
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3602

Palmdale Regional Airport Administration
39516 N 25th St E.
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(661) 266-7602

Ms. Chanelle David
California Department of Fish & Game Unit
Biologist
330 Golden Shore Av., Suite 15
Long Beach, CA 90802
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CA Public Utilities Commission
107 South Broadway, Room 5103
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Mr. Kenneth Koss
CA Public Utilities Commission
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Ms. Andrea Zelles
CA State Trade and Commerce Agency
Los Angeles Regional Office
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Pasadena, CA 91105

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Santa Clarita, CA 91350

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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
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1935 E. Alpha Road #382
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213-922-3612

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Los Angeles County Office of Education
9300 Imperial Highway
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Mr. Jose Amador
Los Angeles County Community Development Commission
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2 Coral Circle
Monterey Park, CA 91755

Mr. Richard Schweinberg
Southern California Edison
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Technical, Planning and Development Dept.
6090 North Irwindale Av.
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818-812-7631

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Southern California Regional Rail Authority
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700 South Flower Street, 26th floor
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213-452-0200

Ms. Bonnie Teaford
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333 East Olive
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Washington, DC 20314-1000

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Los Angeles, CA 90013

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Mr. John Smythe
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Regional Director
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Lakewood CO 80228

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Chief - Southern District
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HSR NOP FedEx List

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Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station
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Los Angeles CA 90012
213-202-3950

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Development Director
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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
(Metro)
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
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Los Angeles CA 90012-2952

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California High-Speed Rail Authority
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Sacramento CA 95814
916-324-1541

Ms. Stephanie Stoermer
Federal Highway Administration
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento CA 95814

Mr. Joseph Ossi
Federal Transit Administration
Office of Human & Natural Environment
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Washington D.C. 20590

HSR NOP FedEx List

City of Los Angeles Planning Department
200 N. Spring St., 7th Floor
Los Angeles CA 90012

Honorable Michael D. Antonovich
Los Angeles County Supervisor District 5
500 W. Temple Street, Room 869
Los Angeles CA 90012

City of Los Angeles DWP
Planning Division
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Los Angeles CA 90012

Honorable Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke
Los Angeles County Supervisor District 2
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Los Angeles CA 90012

City of Santa Clarita Planning Department
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County of Los Angeles Chief Administrative Office Strategic
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County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Environmental Programs
900 South Fremont Ave
Alhambra CA 91803

Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1834
Sacramento CA 95825

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Traffic and Lighting
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915 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 980
Los Angeles CA 90017

County of Los Angeles Sheriff Department
Lancaster - Area #2
501 W. Lancaster Blvd
Lancaster CA 93534

U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service
Santa Monica Mountains Nat. Rec. Area
401 W. Willcrest Dr
Thousand Oaks CA 91360

County of Los Angeles Sheriff Department
Palmdale Station
750 E. Avenue Q
Palmdale CA 93550

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Southern California Field Station
6010 Hidden Valley Rd
Carlsbad CA 92009-4219

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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Ventura CA 93003

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Agua Dulce Town Council
33201 Agua Dulce Canyon Rd
Agua Dulce CA 91350

HSR NOP FedEx List

Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District
43301 Division St, Suite 206
Lancaster CA 93535-4646

Newhall School District
25375 Orchard Village Road, Suite 200
Santa Clarita CA 91355

Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District
315 W. Pondera St
Lancaster CA 93534

Quartz Hill High School
6040 West Avenue L
Quartz Hill CA 91356

Los Angeles Unified School District
Environmental Health and Safety
333 S. Beaudry Ave Los Angeles CA 90017

William S. Hart Union High School District
21515 Redview Dr
Santa Clarita CA 91350

Palmdale Water District
2029 East Avenue Q
Palmdale CA 93550

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles CA 90013

Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society
24107 San Fernando Rd
Newhall CA 91321-2908

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lahontan Region
15428 Civic Drive, Suite 100
Victorville CA 92392

Santa Clarita Water Agency
Division of Castaic Lake Water Agency
22722 W. Soledad Canyon Rd
Santa Clarita CA 91350

California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-south
Sacramento CA 95825-8202

Sierra Club
3435 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 320
Los Angeles CA 90010

Caltrans- District 7 IGR/CEQA Coordinator
Transportation Planning & Analysis
100 South Main Street
Los Angeles CA 90012

Southern California Edison Company
800 West Cienega Ave
San Dimas CA 91773

Department of Conservation
801 "K" Street
Sacramento CA 95814

Acton-Agua Dulce School District
32248 N. Crown Valley Rd
Acton CA 93510

Department of Conservation
Division of Mines & Geology
801 "K" Street, MS 12-32
Sacramento CA 95814

Antelope Valley Union Joint High School District
44811 Sierra Hwy.
Lancaster CA 93534-3226

Department of Conservation
Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources
5816 Corporate Ave, Suite 200
Cypress CA 90630

HSR NOP FedEx List

Department of Fish & Game
4949 Viewridge Ave
San Diego CA 92123

Department of Parks and Recreation
Mojave District
43779 15th Street West
Lancaster CA 93534

Department of Parks and Recreation
Angeles District
1925 LA Virgenes Rd
Calabasas CA 91302

Native American Heritage Commission
915 Capital Mall
Sacramento CA 95814

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